GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5724
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
CONFERENCE ON SOUTH ASIAN GROWTH QUADRANGLE
M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the FICCI with the financial support of Ministry of External Affairs organized a conference on `South Asian Growth Quadrangle - Emerging opportunities for Economic partnership` in New Delhi on March 13-14, 2001;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) the amount spent on the conference;

(d) the recommendations made by the conference; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) FICCI organized the Conference to discuss and identify areas for developing project-based economic cooperation among the four countries comprising the South Asian Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ)-Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and NepalThe Conference adopted and identified key areas of economic and technical cooperation in five working sessions on trade, investment, energy, tourism and infrastructure.

(c) An amount of Rupees ten lakhs has been committed by the Ministry of External Affairs for this Conference, of which Rupees five lakhs have so far been disbursed.

(d & e) The Ministry has not formally received the recommendations made by the Conference. It is, however, understood that the major recommendations relate to the need to develop sub-regional transport networks, cooperation in the energy sector, establishment of joint ventures, development of trade complementarities etc.